raised by Gen. Buch and what decision/ action has been taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The position regarding the three issues raised by Gen Buch, as mentioned in the news report is as under:

(i) *One-Rank-one Pension*: The demand was considered by a High Level Empowered Committee headed by a former Raksha Mantri. The demand was not found feasible for acceptance for a variety of reasons. However, to mitigate the hardship being faced by the Armed Forces pensioners retired prior to 1.1.1986, a scheme for grant of One-Time Increase in their pension has been sanctioned with effect from 1.1.1992.

(ii) *Bill of Rights of ex-Servicemen*: The demand has been examined and has not been found feasible.

(iii) *Post-War Reconstruction Fund*: No authentic information about the existence of such a fund is readily available at this distant date.

Indo-US Defence talks

3829. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there would be Indo-US Defence talks in June, 1995; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the 'Agreed Minute' on Defence relations between India and the United States, signed during the visit of Dr. William J. Perry, US Defence Secretary to India in January, 1995, the next round of talks between the two countries is scheduled to be held this year, when matters of mutual interest pertaining to defence cooperation will be discussed.

Meeting of Indo-French defence working group

3830. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the Indo-French defence working group is scheduled to be held next month;

(b) if so, the venue/agenda decided therefor and whether the sale of French submarines to Pakistan as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 10th April, 1995 is included therein; and

(c) if not, what steps Government of India have taken so far to convey to the Government of France about India's apprehensions about the sale of submarines upsetting the security equilibrium in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The next meeting of the Indo French Joint Committee on Defence is scheduled to be held, at New Delhi at a date convenient to both sides during this year. In meetings of the Joint Committee, matters of mutual interest pertaining to defence cooperation are discussed. Regarding sale of French submarines to Pakistan as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 10th April, 1995, it is stated that Government maintains a constant watch on the developments in the security environment in this region. A close watch is also being kept on such arms transactions in this region as may have an eventual destabilising effect on the security scenario for the country and for this region as a whole. Government is also taking all necessary measures to maintain adequate defence preparedness and to ensure that nation's security is not compromised in any manner.